

Utah Wild Turkey Hunting Guide 2007

A proclamation of the Utah Wildlife
Board

Permit Requirements to Hunt Turkey

Obtaining a turkey permit is the first step to hunting turkeys in Utah. Most Utah turkey permits are known as limited entry permits, because only a limited number of hunters are allowed to hunt in Utah's turkey units. This section provides information about limited entry turkey permits and about other turkey permits that also are available in Utah.

Turkey permits

Utah Code § 23-19-1

To hunt turkeys in Utah, you must first obtain a turkey permit and carry it with you while you're hunting. You cannot alter your permit or transfer it to another person.

You may obtain one turkey permit each year. The only time you may possess more than one turkey permit is if, in addition to your regular permit, you also obtain a turkey conservation permit. More information about conservation permits is available under the "Additional turkey permits" section on this page.

Your turkey permit allows you to take one bearded turkey within the area and during the season specified on your permit. Most mature male turkeys have a beard, and about 20 percent of mature female turkeys have one too. Please see page XX of this guide to learn what a beard looks like and where it's located on a turkey.

Limited entry and landowner turkey permits are available through a drawing. Permits that remain after the drawing are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Information about how to apply for a turkey permit is available on page XX of this guide.

Age requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-20

While hunting with any weapon, a hunter under the age of 14 must be accompanied by his or her parent, a legal guardian or a responsible person 21 years of age or older who their parent or guardian has approved to take

them hunting.

Hunters who are 14 or 15 must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older.

To qualify as "accompanied," the youth and adult must be close enough that the adult can see and verbally communicate with the youth in order to provide direction and assistance. The adult cannot use electronic devices, such as walkie-talkies or cell phones, to communicate with the youth hunter—the adult must be close enough to provide the youth hunter with direction and assistance.

Hunter education requirements

Utah Code § 23-19-11 and Utah Admin. Code R657-23

If you were born after December 31, 1965 and want to buy a hunting license or apply for a turkey permit, you must provide proof that you've passed a hunter education course approved by the Division.

The Division and its license agents will accept the following as proof that you've completed hunter education: a certificate of completion of a hunter education course (this certificate is referred to as a "blue card" in Utah) or a hunting license with your hunter education number noted on the license.

When you apply for a turkey permit, include your hunter education number in the space indicated on the application form.

If you become a Utah resident, and you've completed an approved hunter education course in another state, province or country, you must obtain a Division-issued blue card in order to buy a resident hunting license or turkey permit. You may obtain a Utah blue card at any Division office by providing proof that you've completed an approved hunter education course. The card costs \$10.

Hunting Accommodations for People With Disabilities

Utah Admin. Code R657-12

If you have certain physical disabilities, you may qualify for special hunting accommodations in Utah. For a complete copy of these regulations (Utah Admin. Code R657-12) visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules or call any Division office.

Permit fees

Resident fees	
Limited entry turkey permit	\$45 *
Landowner turkey permit	\$45 *
CWMU turkey permit	\$45 *
Nonresident fees	
Limited entry turkey permit	\$105 *
Landowner turkey permit	\$105 *
CWMU turkey permit	\$105 *

* All permit fees listed include a \$5 nonrefundable handling fee.

Additional turkey permits

In addition to limited entry permits, four other turkey permits—conservation, landowner, Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) and poaching reported reward permits—are available.

Conservation permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-41

Turkey conservation permits are available from nonprofit conservation organizations. The organizations usually sell the permits at fundraising banquets. A list of organizations selling conservation permits for Utah's 2007 turkey season will be available at wildlife.utah.gov by late November.

More information about obtaining conservation permits is available by contacting the nearest Division office or by reviewing Utah Admin. Code R657-41 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

You may obtain conservation permits in addition to a limited entry, landowner, CWMU or poaching reported reward permit you've also obtained.

Landowner permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-6

If you own land that supports turkeys in Utah, you may qualify to apply for a landowner turkey permit. Landowner permits are a way to thank landowners for maintaining and enhancing turkey habitat on private land and to encourage them to do so in the future. When landowners maintain and enhance habitat for turkeys, everyone wins: landowners may qualify for a landowner turkey permit and public hunters have access to turkeys that move from private land to public land during the hunting season.

If you're interested in applying for a landowner permit, you must obtain a landowner permit application by contacting the regional Division office in your area no later than December 15, 2006.

More information about obtaining landowner permits is available by contacting the nearest Division office or reviewing Utah Admin. Code R657-54-6 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-37

You can enjoy hunting turkeys on private property in Utah through the state's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) program. Here's how the CWMU program works:

Private lands are designated as a CWMU if the landowner works with the Division to manage the land for turkeys. Private landowners who own land that qualifies as a CWMU are given permits they can sell to hunters. In return, the landowner agrees to allow an equal number of public hunters, who obtain a permit for his property through the state's drawing, onto his CWMU to hunt.

The CWMU program is a win-win situation for everyone: public hunters gain access to private lands that were once closed to them and landowners receive a financial incentive to manage their lands for turkeys.

Two ways are available to obtain a CWMU permit. You can apply for one in the turkey drawing or you can contact a CWMU operator directly to inquire about purchasing a permit from the operator. Please see page XX of this guide for a list of CWMU operators and the number of permits offered on their CWMUs through the turkey drawing this season.

More information about obtaining a CWMU permit is available by contacting

the nearest Division office or by reviewing Utah Admin. Code R657-37 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Poaching reported reward permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-21

If you provide information that leads to the arrest and successful prosecution of a person who has illegally taken a turkey, you may be eligible to receive a permit from the Division to hunt turkeys the following year on the same limited entry area where the violation occurred. (This illegal take is a violation of Utah Code 23-20 and is called "wanton destruction.")

Applying For a Turkey Permit

Your first and best chance to obtain a Utah turkey permit is through the state's annual turkey drawing. Permit applications are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

Personal checks, business checks, money orders and cashier's checks may be used as payment. Personal and business checks drawn on out-of-state accounts are not accepted, however. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA credit or debit cards also may be used as payment, but they must be valid through March 2007.

Handling fees and donations will be charged to your credit or debit card when your application is processed. Your application can be voided if your check is returned unpaid from the bank or your credit or debit card is invalid or refused.

Apply —it's quick and easy!

The best way to apply for a 2007 Utah turkey permit is online at wildlife.utah.gov. There are many advantages to applying online:

- you can apply from your home, office or any location that has Internet access
- you can submit your application within minutes and receive an e-mail confirmation
- your application won't be lost in the mail

- the application alerts you if you make an error
- the application provides you with the correct hunt numbers
- drawing results will be sent to your e-mail address
- you'll receive a postcard the following year that reminds you about that year's turkey application period

Important dates for turkey hunters

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-3

November 28: Applications available

You can apply for a permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*. Applications also are available from license agents and Division offices. Residents and nonresidents may apply.

To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident on the date the permit is purchased. January 31, 2007 is considered the purchase date of the permit and the date by which you must establish residency in the state of Utah. Please see the resident definition on page XX of this guide for information on whether you qualify as a resident.

When applying for a turkey permit, you may select up to three hunt choices. Please list your hunt choices in order of preference.

You may not apply for a turkey permit more than once each year, and group applications are not accepted.

December 19: Application correction letter

If you make an error on a mail-in application, you may receive an application correction letter if your application is received by 5 p.m. on December 19, 2006. Follow the directions on the correction letter to resubmit your application.

December 26: Application deadline

Applications must be completed at *wildlife.utah.gov* or mailed to one of the addresses listed on the application. Mail-in applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on December 26, 2006. Applications submitted through *wildlife.utah.gov* must be received no later than 11 p.m. on December 26, 2006.

January 9: Making changes to or withdrawing your application

You can make changes to your application, or withdraw your application from the drawing, by requesting the changes or withdrawal in writing by January 9, 2007.

Amendment and withdrawal forms are available at *wildlife.utah.gov* and at Division offices. The forms request all of the information you'll need to change or withdraw your application.

If you withdraw your application, the handling fees you submitted with your application will not be refunded.

January 31: Drawing results available

You will be notified of the drawing results by mail and e-mail. Drawing results also will be posted at *wildlife.utah.gov* or may be obtained by calling 1-800-221-0659.

If you're successful in the drawing, you'll receive your permit in the mail by late February.

Please be aware that if you receive your permit, and then the check or credit card you used for payment is refused, your permit becomes invalid and you may not hunt turkey. If this happens, please contact a Division office to resolve the problem.

February 15: Remaining permits available

Any permits remaining after the drawing may be obtained beginning February 15, 2007 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices. Remaining permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Permits for youth hunters

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-23

Up to 15 percent of the turkey permits in Utah have been set aside for young hunters. If you'll be 18 years of age or younger on January 31, 2007 (the day results of the turkey drawing are posted) and you're not under a waiting period for turkeys, you'll be automatically entered in the youth permit drawing

when you apply for your permit.

The future of turkey conservation rests in the hands of Utah's young people. The Utah Wildlife Board first approved setting aside permits for young hunters in 2002 to increase the interest young people have in turkeys and turkey conservation.

Bonus points

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-5

A turkey bonus point system was started in 2000 to increase your chance of drawing a turkey permit.

How your bonus points work in the draw:

- Fifty percent of the permits for each hunt unit are reserved for applicants who have the greatest number of bonus points.
- You receive a random drawing number for your current turkey application and a random drawing number for every turkey bonus point you have. Your lowest random number is then used in the drawing. (The lower your number, the better your chance at drawing a permit.)

How bonus points are earned:

- You receive a bonus point each time you're unsuccessful in the turkey drawing.
- Instead of applying for a turkey permit, you may apply for a bonus point if you won't be hunting turkeys during the upcoming season but still want a bonus point.
 - You may apply for either a turkey permit or a turkey bonus point, but not both.
 - When applying for a bonus point, you must include a \$5 handling fee to cover the cost of processing your application.

You cannot apply for or receive a bonus point if:

- You're under a waiting period for turkey.
- Your hunting privileges are suspended for turkey or small game.

Once you draw a turkey permit, you no longer have any bonus points but you'll start earning them again the next time you're eligible to apply for a turkey permit and are unsuccessful in that year's drawing.

Waiting periods

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-4

Waiting periods have been established to give turkey hunters a better chance at drawing a permit. If you obtain a turkey permit, you may not apply for a permit again for three years. For example, if you obtain a turkey permit for the 2007 hunt, you may not apply for a turkey permit again until applications are accepted for the 2010 hunt. Also, please remember that if you obtained a turkey permit for the 2005 or 2006 hunts, you may not apply for a turkey permit for the 2007 hunt.

Taking successful applicants out of the drawing reduces the number of hunters applying for a permit, which increases the odds the remaining applicants have of drawing a permit.

You can't apply for a turkey permit if you're under a waiting period, but you may purchase a permit if any remain after the drawing. If you purchase a permit after the drawing, you incur a new waiting period. For example, if you obtained a turkey permit for the 2006 hunt, you would have to wait until 2009 to apply for a permit again. If you bought a remaining permit for the 2007 hunt, you would incur a new waiting period and would have to wait until 2010 to apply for a permit again.

Waiting periods do not apply to conservation, landowner, Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit or poaching reported reward permits. More information about these permits is available on pages XX of this guide.

Field requirements

Several rules have been established to regulate turkey hunting in Utah. These rules help ensure turkeys are hunted ethically and help keep you safe while in the field. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using firearms and archery tackle, the different types of hunting methods that may and may not be used and what you're required to do with any turkey you take.

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and custodian of Utah's wildlife, Division conservation officers and biologists monitor the taking and possession of turkeys and the required permits and firearms and equipment used for hunting. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the field and at checking stations and checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items he or she requests, including any licenses and permits required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting and any game that you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about turkeys in Utah.

Hunting methods

Several rules apply to the methods that may be used to hunt turkeys in Utah.

Baiting

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-

Baiting is an illegal activity that involves the spreading of shelled, shucked or unshucked grain, feed or salt to lure, attract or entice turkeys to an area. You may not hunt turkeys by baiting. You also cannot hunt on or over any baited area if you know, or reasonably should know, that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be a baited area for 10 days after the bait has been removed from the area, or for 10 days after the bait in the area has been eaten.

You can take turkey on lands or areas that have not been baited, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown (for example, a farmer shredding corn in a field and letting the corn remain where it fell).

Falconry

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-10

Falconers may not release a raptor on turkeys.

Live decoys and electronic calls

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-11

You may not use live decoys; recordings or tapes of turkey calls or sounds; or electronically amplified imitations of turkey calls to take turkeys.

Sitting or roosting turkeys

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-12

You may not take any turkey that is sitting in a tree.

Spotlighting

Utah Admin. Code R657-6-24

You may not use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate any protected wildlife, including turkey, while having in your possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife.

The use of a spotlight or other artificial light in any area where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife. (Prima facie evidence means that if you're spotlighting, the burden of proof falls on you to prove that you were not attempting to locate protected wildlife.)

The provisions of this section do not apply to the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife, or if you're licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided you're not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not:

- enter upon privately owned land that is cultivated or properly posted without the permission of the owner or person in charge of the land;
- refuse to immediately leave the private land if requested to do so by the owner or person in charge; or
- obstruct any entrance or exit to private land.

"Cultivated land" is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

"Permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include:

- the signature of the owner or person in charge;
- the name of the person being given permission;
- the appropriate dates; and
- a general description of the land.

"Properly posted" means that "No Trespassing" signs or a minimum of 100 square inches of bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint are displayed at all corners, fishing streams crossing property lines, roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land. If metal fence posts are used, the entire exterior side must be painted.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by Utah Code § 23-21-4.

In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of Utah Code § 23-20-14.

Use of dogs

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-15

Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve turkeys during open hunting seasons.

Dogs are not allowed on state wildlife management or waterfowl management areas except during open hunting seasons or as posted by the Division.

Firearms and archery tackle

Several rules apply to the type of shotguns, ammunition and archery tackle that may be used to take turkeys in Utah.

Firearms and archery equipment

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-7

Turkeys may be taken only with a bow and broadhead arrows, or a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge, firing shot between BB and no. 6 in size.

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§ 76-10-502 and 76-10-505

You may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle. A pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun is considered loaded when an unfired cartridge, shell or projectile is in the firing position.

Pistols and revolvers are also considered loaded when an unfired cartridge, shell or projectile is in a position whereby the manual operation of any mechanism once would cause the unfired cartridge, shell or projectile to fire.

A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinders.

Areas where you can't discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508 and Utah Admin. Code R657-12

You may not discharge a firearm:

- from a vehicle;
- from, upon or across any highway;
- at power lines; or
- without written permission from the owner or person in charge of the land within 600 feet of:
 - a house, dwelling or any other building;
 - any structure in which a domestic animal is kept or fed, including a barn, poultry yard, corral, feeding pen or stockyard.

State parks

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-32 and R651-614-4

Hunting any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Utah Admin. Code R651-614-4.

In park areas that are designated open to hunting, hunting with shotguns or archery tackle is prohibited within one-quarter miles of all park facilities, including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps and developed beaches.

Info. Box

Restricted persons and the possession of dangerous weapons

Utah Code § 76-10-503

It is illegal under Utah Code Section 76-10-503 to possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader, archery tackle or any other dangerous weapon if you:

- Have been convicted of or are under indictment for any felony offense;
- Are on probation or parole for a felony offense;
- Are on parole from a secure facility;
- Have been adjudicated delinquent (juvenile) in the last seven years of an offense that, if committed by an adult, would have been a felony;
- Are an unlawful user of a controlled substance;
- Have been found not guilty by reason of insanity for a felony offense;
- Have been found mentally incompetent to stand trial for a felony offense;
- Have been adjudicated mentally defective as provided in the federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act;
- Have been committed to a mental institution;
- Are an alien who is illegally in the United States;
- Have been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces; or

- Have renounced your citizenship as a United States citizen.

The purchase or possession of any hunting license, permit, tag or certificate of registration from the Division of Wildlife Resources does not authorize the holder to legally possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader, archery tackle or any other dangerous weapon while hunting if they are otherwise restricted from possessing these weapons under Section 76-10-503.

Possession of turkey

Once you've taken a turkey, several rules apply to the use of the game you've taken.

Waste of game

Utah Code § 23-20-8 and Utah Admin. Code R657-54-17 and R657-54-20

You may not waste any turkey or permit it to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon a turkey or allow it to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use. For example, using the meat as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use of the meat.)

In addition, you may not kill or cripple any turkey without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it. You must immediately kill any turkey you wound and tag the bird.

Tagging requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-30 and Utah Admin. Code R657-54-13

After you've taken a turkey, you must tag the bird before you move the carcass from or leave the site of the kill.

To tag a turkey, completely detach the tag from your turkey permit and completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the turkey was taken and the sex of the turkey. Then attach the tag to the bird so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating date or sex, or tag more than one turkey using the same tag. Also, you may not hunt or pursue turkeys after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from your permit.

Identification of species and sex

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-14

The head and beard of a turkey must remain attached to the bird while it's being transported.

Exporting harvested turkeys from Utah

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-19

You may export turkey or their parts from Utah only if:

- you harvested the turkey and possess a valid permit corresponding to the tag; or
- if you're not the person who harvested the turkey, you must obtain a shipping permit from the Division.

Donating turkeys

Utah Code § 23-20-9

You may donate, or give, a turkey or its parts to another person only at the following places:

- The residence of the donor
- The residence of the person receiving the turkey or its parts
- A meat locker
- A storage plant
- A meat processing facility

A written statement of donation must be kept with the turkey or its parts showing:

- the number and species of wildlife or parts donated;

- the date of donation;
- the permit number of the donor; and
- the signature of the donor.

Info. Box

WHAT IS A BEARD?

A cluster of hair-like feathers called a beard grows from the center of the chest on male turkeys. A small percentage of hens also grow a beard. The head and beard of a turkey must remain attached during transport to help conservation officers confirm the sex of the bird.

Shooting hours

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-8

You may take turkeys from 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset.

The official sunrise and sunset times change daily. The times when sunrise and sunset occur are also different across the state. Depending on your location, you may need to add or subtract minutes from the sunrise and sunset times listed in the Official Sunrise/Sunset table that follows.

Please consult the Time Zone Map at the right to learn whether you need to add or subtract minutes from the times listed in the table.

Definitions

Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Code R657-54-2

Bait means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

Falconry means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.

Hunting means to take or pursue a reptile, amphibian, bird or mammal by any means.

Limited entry hunt means any hunt listed in the hunt tables of this guide.

Limited entry permit means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt by any means, including conservation permits and sportsman permits.

Nonresident means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

Permit means a document, including a stamp, which grants authority to engage in specified activities under the Wildlife Resources Code or a rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board.

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Resident means a person who has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment in Utah for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit and who DOES NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

You retain your Utah residency if you leave Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States or for religious or educational purposes and do NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

If you're a member of the armed forces of the United States, you and your dependents are residents as of the date you report for duty under assigned orders in Utah, if:

- you are NOT on temporary duty in Utah.
- you do NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- you present a copy of your assignment orders to a Division office to verify your qualification as a resident.

If you're a nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student, you may qualify as a resident if you have been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and do NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

You DO NOT qualify as a resident if you are an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

Tag means a card, label or other identification device issued for attachment to the carcass of protected wildlife.

Take means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or attempt any action referred to above.

Waste means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.